

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Open Oct. 2, 2023 – Jan. 26, 2024

The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery is accepting submissions for its seventh triennial Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition. The competition foregrounds the relevance of portraiture in contemporary art and its power to explore our shared humanity. Since 2006, the competition and exhibition have been made possible by the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition Endowment, which was established by Virginia Outwin Boochever, a longtime docent at the National Portrait Gallery. The endowment is sustained by her family.



Apply Here



Follow along as the 2025 Competition unfolds @smithsoniannpg #Outwin2025.

Why Apply?

Ever dream of having your work on view at the nation's premier Portrait Gallery? Now is your chance!

Accepted artworks will form "The Outwin 2025: American Portraiture Today" exhibition, which will be displayed at the National Portrait Gallery from April 26, 2025–February 22, 2026, before traveling to other cities. The 2025 Competition is directed by Taína Caragol, Curator of Painting, Sculpture, and Latinx Art and History at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. The resulting exhibition is co-curated by Caragol and Charlotte Ickes, Curator of Time-Based Media Art and Special Projects, Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery.

Want to have a chance to create a fully funded commission for a national museum collection?

The first-prize winner will receive \$25,000 and a commission to portray a remarkable sitter for the Portrait Gallery's collection. Additional prizes of \$10,000 and \$7,500 will be awarded to second and third-place winners, respectively.

Want to have your work noticed by top curators and experts in the field?

2025 competition jurors include: *Carla Acevedo-Yates*, Marilyn and Larry Fields Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago • *Taína Caragol*, Curator of Painting, Sculpture, and Latinx Art and History, Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery • *Rhea L. Combs*, Director of Curatorial Affairs, Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery • *Huey Copeland*, BFC Presidential Associate Professor of the History of Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia • *LaToya Ruby Frazier*, Artist • *Charlotte Ickes*, Curator of Time-Based Media Art and Special Projects, Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery • *Daniel Lind-Ramos*, Artist

Who is eligible?

Artists 18 years of age and up who are living and working in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, are welcome to apply. The competition welcomes portraiture of all mediums. All entries must be submitted electronically through an online submission site at portraitcompetition.si.edu.